



2005 White House  
Conference on Aging



American Optometric Association

**2005 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING SOLUTIONS FORUM  
“EYE CARE ACCESS: ELIMINATING BARRIERS FOR SENIORS AND BABY BOOMERS”**

American Optometric Association  
Hyatt DFW Hotel, Dallas, Fort Worth/Texas

June 24, 2005

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Enterprise I Meeting Room**

**PROGRAM**

1:00 p.m. Master of Ceremonies: Satya Verma, O.D.  
Director of Community Eye Care Services, Pennsylvania College of Optometry

Welcoming Remarks

Wesley E. Pittman, O.D., President  
American Optometric Association (AOA)

Adelaide "Addie" Horn, Deputy Commissioner  
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

David Crist, O.D., Chair  
Advocacy Group, AOA

Michele R. Haranin, O.D., Chair  
Federal Relations Committee, AOA

**1:30 P.M. SOLUTIONS FORUM**

The Honorable Dorcas R. Hardy, Chair, WHCoA Policy Committee

Rodolfo Arredondo, Ed.D, WHCoA Advisory Committee Member, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

**PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

**HEALTH AND LONG-TERM LIVING**

The physiological fallout of systemic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes can threaten the eyes of older adults due to risk factors for conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma and retinopathy. Removing barriers that impede access to eye care will encourage disease

prevention and early intervention strategies. Such strategies can help to lower the incidence and manifestations of these vision impairing and sometimes health/life threatening diseases.

Michael R. Duenas, O.D., Health Scientist, National Vision Program, Centers for Disease Control and Disease Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Rosie Janiszewski, Deputy Director, Office of Communication, Health Education, and Public Liaison, National Eye Institute, NIH

## **THE WORKPLACE OF THE FUTURE**

Older individuals who maintain good health and vision, or those who have received effective treatment and rehabilitation for health problems and/or vision impairment, may desire or need to extend years of gainful employment. Breaking down barriers to accommodate experienced, skilled, reliable older workers would provide incentives for employers to retain older employees in their jobs longer.

Alfred A. Rosenbloom, Jr., O.D., former President and Dean, Illinois College of Optometry

Susan R. Gormezano, O.D., Chair AOA's Low Vision and Rehabilitation Section, Bingham Farms, MI

Dorothy L. Hitchmoth, O.D., Chief of Optometry, New England Veterans Medical Center at White River Station, VT

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

There is much to be gleaned from "best practice," eye care delivery models. Moreover, opportunities should be made to duplicate them in community and rural health care settings to help reduce health disparities among underserved populations.

Marc Piccolo, O.D., Associate Dean for Professional Development, University of Houston, College of Optometry

Gilbert Pierce, O.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Optometry, The Ohio State University College of Optometry

William Sexton, President-Elect, National Rural Health Association, Chief Executive for the North Coast Service Area of Providence Health System in Oregon

## **SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT**

The promotion of social interaction, physical activity, life long learning and access to technology greatly enhances quality of life in later years. Mobility and transportation, including safe practices for the senior driver are significant concerns. Enhancing vision function enhances social interaction, independence, and optimum quality of life.

Bruce P. Rosenthal, O.D., Chief of Low Vision Programs, Lighthouse International, New York, NY

Satya Verma, O.D.

## **Comments From The Audience**

